

Flood Closes Baptist Baptist Disaster Unit Activated

APR. 23 1979

The Baptist Building, within the cordoned off area of downtown Jackson, has been closed all week. Though the building itself is dry, the function of the convention board has been hampered.

Though the closing is an insignificant part of the misery induced by the flooding Pearl River, the effects of the flood on Baptists remain a primary responsibility of the Baptist Record.

The Baptist Record, which maintains offices at the Baptist Building, received police permission to enter the closed downtown area to produce this week's issue.

Many stories which would have ordinarily gone in this issue will have to

wait until a future one.

Several convention board staff members' homes are under water in the metro Jackson area, as are the homes of a number of Baptist church staffs and members. Total figures are unavailable.

The Jackson Planning Department estimates as of Tuesday morning, April 17, 8,000 homes and 15,000 residents in the Jackson area, including Pearl and Flowood, have been evacuated.

Reports at press time were that towns further down the Pearl River were beginning to feel the effects of the flooding and some evacuations were beginning.

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Vietnam Christians Face Hunger, Poverty, Death

(BP) — Reports from a former missionary to Vietnam and a Baptist pastor who just escaped from there indicate Christians have not been doing well since the Communist takeover in 1975.

Peyton Moore, a missionary now assigned to Hong Kong, told John Rutledge of the Baptist Standard that increasing shortages of food and medicine, and Vietnam's wars with Cambodia and China are forcing some Christians to a choice of death by either suicide or starvation.

"The recent letters we've gotten out of Saigon are quite depressing," Peyton said. "They indicate a need for food and for medicine. The whole tone of the letters has been one of despair."

Only three of the more than 30 Baptist churches and chapels in Vietnam at the end of 1974 are still operating. Two are Vietnamese and one is Chinese.

Dao Van Chinh, the first Baptist pastor to escape Vietnam, said the Chinese church is "growing miraculously." He said the church has about 100 members and is crowded with adults, mostly students and factory workers. His last direct contact with the church was in 1978.

Chinh told missionary press representative Maxine Stewart in a refugee camp in Thailand that pastoral work is increasingly difficult because most ministers are required to work at outside jobs, often some distance from home.

In Dalat, the local government has declared 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. as work time, seven days a week. Those who cannot work gradually sell their animals and clothes in exchange for food. Christians in Vietnam are becoming physically and spiritually poor, Chinh said. "They can keep their faith and be steadfast only with the love and grace of God," he said.

The trial of faith is harder in Vietnam than in other Communist or totalitarian countries because of the general economic condition, claimed Moore. High taxes make the people reluctant to produce and this adds to the problem.

Although missionaries had been developing a lay leadership program before they left Vietnam, the church was neither large enough nor strong enough to prepare for life under communism.

"Most of the young men who felt called to preach were at draft age and were drafted," Moore said. "We had a seminary but we were not able to get the students any deferment or draft exemption. So we were trying to develop lay leaders all along."

Chinh was assistant director of the Vietnam Baptist Theological Seminary in Saigon when the communists took over. In the beginning, the communists treated them kindly. The officers got seminary permission to borrow some of the buildings for public use. But soon, they simply took over all

the buildings and furnishings for official and personal use.

Although no one told them not to attend church or train seminary students, Chinh said they understood to do so would greatly annoy the government, especially local officers.

Chinh and his family stayed at the seminary until he was given the choice of leaving unconditionally or being separated from his family for "re-education." They left.

He stayed in the country three years, moving twice more. In December 1978 his family and six friends left the country in a diesel powered 20-foot boat. In 11 days they reached Songkhla Bay in Thailand where he now works in a refugee camp.

Border war with China has turned hostile attention to the Chinese merchant class in Saigon. Moore said many Chinese were rounded up and

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Southern Baptist Convention To Hold Missionary Dedication

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) — Southern Baptists will dedicate more than 1,000 missionaries in a service broadcast by satellite and elect a new president when they convene in Houston for the 122nd annual session of the 134-year old Southern Baptist Convention.

The sessions will run June 12-14 at The Summit and the AstroDome but activities and meetings related to it will get underway Sunday afternoon, June 10.

After sessions all day Tuesday, June 12, and Wednesday morning, June 13, in The Summit, the SBC session will move to the AstroDome for the Wednesday evening session for a massive Bold Mission Thrust Rally.

The rally, featuring a closing address by Evangelist Billy Graham, will highlight the convention. It is expected to draw about 50,000 people to the AstroDome and an estimated

200,000 persons to rallies in some 10 cities around the nation where the televised service will be broadcast by satellite, according to SBC President Jimmy R. Allen of San Antonio.

Allen and Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Southern Baptist Women's Missionary Union, Birmingham, Ala., will lead the dedication service for 1,000 volunteers who have signed up for one or more years mission service. Graham will preach a sermon on Bold Mission Thrust, the SBC plan to present the gospel of Jesus to the world by the year 2000, and will lead an invocation for additional persons in attendance to respond publicly to the call of missionary service.

The Bold Mission Thrust Rally will also include music by an 8,000-voice choir under the direction of Cliff Barrows of the Graham team, a procession of flags of nations and states where Southern Baptists have missionaries. The rally will likewise include reports of the SBC Home and Foreign Mission Board by executive directors William G. Tanner and Baker J. Cauthen, along with testimonies of missions personnel.

More than 18,000 persons from around the nation are expected to register for the convention, which last

year in Atlanta registered an all-time record of 22,872.

Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, who will step down after two years in the office, will deliver the annual president's address at the opening session, June 12, and will preside.

Other program features include Jim McConn, mayor of Houston, who will welcome messengers; the convention sermon by William Hinson, pastor of First Baptist Church, New Orleans, La.; and addresses by Charles Colson, former White House staff assistant who now runs a Christian ministry for prisoners; Porter W. Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the SBC Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.; Jerry Clower, country humorist from Yazoo City, Miss.; Emmanuel Scott, a black Baptist pastor from Los Angeles, Calif.; and Cauthen.

Routh, who will retire after 28 years as both executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee and treasurer of the SBC, will make his last appearance in these capacities. Besides his address, he will also present the annual report of the Executive Committee.

(Continued on page 2)

Five Fabulous Sundays April 15 Total: 1,539

Three week total is 4,867.

By Bryant M. Cummings, Director, Sunday School Department

Mississippi's Five Fabulous Sunday's will climax on Sunday, April 29 in many Sunday Schools across the state.

High Attendance Day will be recognized in a large number of churches on this fifth Sunday with plans being finalized to reach attendance and enrollment goals of new Sunday School members during April.

New Sunday School members can still be enrolled by giving major attention to some of the following procedures and methods.

Enroll people—boys, girls, men and women using the "open enrollment"

plan. Enroll new members anywhere, anytime, anyplace — as long as the potential new member agrees to be enrolled.

Place new member cards in song book racks of church auditoriums — "ask" people to join and enroll by signing cards.

Start a Cradle Roll Department or a Homebound Department. (Both of these departments could be organized before next Sunday by any Sunday School!)

Visit church members not enrolled in Sunday School.

Sunday School officers and teachers can set in motion a mighty spirit and force for reaching people for Christ, Church and Sunday School membership and study in the Word of God. Let's make every Sunday a FABULOUS Sunday!

CeLAYbration Set In Natchez

On May 4-6, 1979 in Natchez at the Ramada Hilltop Inn there will be a CeLAYbration (Lay Renewal Training Conference) jointly sponsored by Mississippi and Louisiana Baptists.

The conference begins at 1:00 o'clock Friday afternoon and ends with the Sunday morning worship service at 9:45.

The Friday afternoon session is directed to pastors, directors of missions and other church staff members, but is not limited to these groups.

Opportunity will be given to learn about, or add to one's present knowledge of Renewal. Various aspects of Renewal permeate the complete process of the Bold Mission Thrust.

"Renewal is vital in our coming alive in Christ, both as individuals and the body called the church," said Paul Harrell of the Mississippi Brotherhood Department. "Renewal is bringing about a great awakening among our lay people," he added.

The CeLAYbration will be led by David Haney, Brotherhood Commission, Reid Hardin, Home Mission Board, Paul Harrell, and Calvin Cantrell, director of evangelism, Louisiana Baptist Convention.

Reservations for lodging may be made at the Ramada Hilltop, P. O. Box 1263, Natchez, MS 39120. For further information contact the Brotherhood Department, P. O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or call 354-3704.

Associational Officers Will Have Orientation

The annual Associational Officer Orientation is scheduled for May 15 at the Alta Woods Baptist Church in Jackson.

The orientation will have specialized planning sessions for persons in 11 associational positions. These officers are the director of missions, the moderator, directors of Sunday School, Church Training, Church Music, Woman's Missionary Union, Brotherhood, the church administration coordinator, and the chairmen of the Stewardship, Evangelism, and Missions Committees.

Since the materials deal with the 1979-80 church year, those persons who attend should be the ones who will be serving next year.

The orientation has two purposes. First, associational leaders will become acquainted with the suggested programs for the churches for 1979-80. And second, they will hear of associational programs which might be used to assist churches.

Chester Vaughn, program director for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, and orientation planner, said

(Continued on page 3)



The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit is on the job in Jackson.

The state mission offering-supported ministry began operation Sunday afternoon when asked by the Red Cross to set up in Pearl where a number of people were being evacuated from their homes.

The unit fed several hundred hot meals Sunday night and was moved Monday afternoon to Colonial Heights Baptist Church's parking lot in North-east Jackson, closer to rising waters.

Volunteers manning the unit fed about 850 hot meals Monday night, April 16, where they were expected to feed over 1,500 persons at both lunch and supper on Tuesday.

The unit was to remain in the devastated Northeast section of Jackson until later in the week when the possibility of local churches' cooking the food would enable the unit to move further down river to other flooded areas.

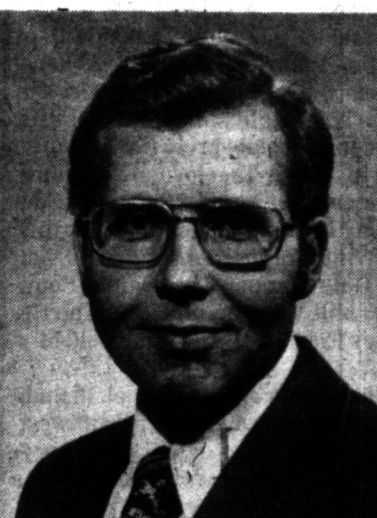
A more complete story on the unit's ministry and the ministry of Baptist churches will be in a future issue of the Baptist Record.

More Rings To Missions

First Baptist Church of Hattiesburg, received a diamond ring as part of its 1978 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering.

The donor of the ring asked to remain anonymous, but stated that inspiration to give the ring to missions came from an article published in the Baptist Record earlier in the fall. Through the years, giving to the special Lottie Moon Christmas offering has been very important in both the donor's life and in the lives of that person's family as a part of their Christian witness, according to a church staffer.

A large single diamond surrounded by a cluster of ten small diamonds with an antique setting was appraised at a little over \$900 and was sold for \$1,000, with all proceeds going to the special mission offering.



Superintendent

Daniel West has been named superintendent of Central Hills Baptist Retreat at Kosciusko. The 37-year-old West will begin work in May and will direct operation of the retreat and handle maintenance of the grounds.



Participants in the 1979 Southern Baptist Convention will thoroughly cover this area of Houston, which includes: The AstroDome, where a dedication service will be held Wednesday night; Astroworld, lower right; Astro Village Motor

Hotel, where 750 messengers will stay, lower left. Myriad other hotels are just to the left of the picture and downtown Houston is top center.

Tennessee Baptists Vote To Unload Belmont Plaza

By Norman Jameson
NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Tennessee Baptists voted April 5 to unload Belmont Plaza, a financially troubled high rise for senior adults.
In the first specially called session of the Tennessee Baptist Convention in 104 years, messengers overwhelmingly adopted the seven-part recommendation of a special study committee to sell or transfer ownership of the 123-unit building as soon as possible.
They also instructed the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation, an agency of the state convention which built Belmont Plaza, to continue its responsibility for the maintenance and security of the facility.
A committee appointed by W. Fred Kendall II, president of the state convention, will negotiate terms of the sale or transfer and the state executive board will pay all expenses incurred in the disposition. Trustees of the service corporation were instructed to execute all necessary documents for sale or transfer upon request of the committee.
Messengers rejected the option of

pumping more money into the facility to keep it under control of the convention. The Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation had asked the convention to increase its debt ceiling from \$5 million to \$6.5 million and to designate \$100,000 per year to the corporation from the state Cooperative Program budget.
The possibility — raised from the floor of the convention — of keeping Belmont Plaza as a rental apartment building was rejected.
Belmont Plaza has been in trouble since November 1978 when it was discovered that excess funds from a bond sale could be used only for construction and not for operating expenses as originally intended. So when the facility was completed Feb. 1, it could not open.
Tennessee State securities laws allow the interest collected on the bond amount to be used for operating expenses, but the Belmont Plaza bonds were sold as high risk and written to require the interest, which amounted to \$457,000, to be placed in reserve — unreachable for operating expenses.

William H. Coles Jr., Nashville banker and chairman of the study committee that brought the recommendation, tried to explain to the 1,400 messengers what went wrong. He told them the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation was asked to do an impossible job without the resources or collateral; that non-expert people were dealing with very technical financial and construction problems; and that the project's legal documents, bond indentures and prospectus were not in agreement.
Those instruments were apparently not in agreement because the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation's directors did not seek adequate legal counsel for their protection.
The committee's seven-point recommendation was amended to include an eighth point — that the committee to dispose of Belmont Plaza try to maintain, if possible, a relationship between the facility and the Tennessee Baptist Convention. That move was seen as an attempt to give Belmont College, a Southern Baptist school whose land borders Belmont Plaza, a good opportunity to somehow utilize the facility.
One of the options which was to have been presented to the special convention would have tried to shift control of the building to Belmont College. But college president Herbert C. Gabhart withdrew the option just prior to the convention's convening.
A significant point in the recommendation says that any gain or loss realized from the sale or transfer of Belmont Plaza will be a gain or loss of the state convention. The convention thus assumes complete liability with the understanding that no bond holder will lose on his investment.
Earlier reports maintained the service corporation was a separate entity from the state Baptist convention.
Wade Darby, executive director of the Tennessee Baptist Service Corporation, told the messengers, "I want to do the very best I know and the very best I can to sell Tennessee Baptists on the idea of a loving, effective, business-like, Christian ministry to the elderly." Darby became executive director of the corporation Jan. 1, 1978, after the Belmont project was underway. The corporation also operates a nursing home in Lenoir City, Tenn.

Additions To Revival Listing

Gulf Coast			
Church	Dates	Evangelist	Pastor
Northward, Gulfport	April 23-29	Vic Carter	Robert D. Wright
Rankin			
Church	Dates	Evangelist	Pastor
Lake Harbor	April 20-22	Tom Kilgore	T. C. Pinson
Hinds-Madison			
Church	Dates	Evangelist	Pastor
West Jackson Church, Jackson	April 22-27	Len Turner	Dewitt Mitchell

Religious Educators Meet Prior To SBC In Houston

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) — Religious educators from across the United States will explore ways to get churches growing to undergird Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust at the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Religious Education Association, June 10-11, at First Baptist Church, Houston.
The meeting is one of several preceding the annual gathering of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 12-14, at the Summit and the Astrodome.
Jesse C. Fletcher, president of Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, will speak on "Discipleship: Basis for Bold Mission;" Peter Wagner, associate professor of church growth, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, Calif., on "Religious Education: Its Role in Church Growth;" and William Pinson, president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif., on "The Religious Educator: Agent for Bold Mission."
Other program personnel include LeRoy Ford, professor at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas, with three sessions on "Tips for Teaching and Training;" C. Winfield Rich, minister of education, Belmont Heights Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn.; and Crawford Howell, manager, Broadman sales, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville.
Special features include a synopsis on the recent Consultation on Women in Church-Related Vocations by Neta Stewart, dean of women and director of student activities at Southwestern Seminary. Capsules on vocational guidance, training and keeping abreast of developments will be presented respectively by Alice Magill, vocational guidance specialist, Baptist Sunday School Board; Ferris Jordan of the faculty of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary; and Gary Ellis, minister of education, Shades

Evangelists Emphasize Preaching And Singing

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) — Four hours of evangelistic preaching and singing are scheduled for the annual meeting of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists, Wednesday, June 13, at Houston's First Baptist Church.
The meeting, one of several related to the annual Southern Baptist Convention, June 12-14, in the Summit in Houston, is scheduled during the Wednesday afternoon period when no SBC session will be held.
A breakfast and business session at 8:30 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Downtown will precede the meeting, which gets underway at 12:30 p.m. at the church with a gospel concert, followed at 1:50 p.m. by the main program.
Speakers are Eddie Martin, evangelist from Lancaster, Pa.; Anis Shorosh, Arab Christian evangelist from Mobile, Ala.; Ronald Dunn, evangelist from Fort Worth, Texas; and Larry Walker, evangelist from Dallas, Texas.
Music will be provided by Lonnie Parsons, San Antonio, Texas; Bette

Stalnecki, Memphis, Tenn.; the Cruse Family, Jacksonville, Texas; and the Bernard Singers, Houston, Texas.
Other conference participants include John Bisagno, host pastor; James Draper, the conference's pastor-advisor, pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Texas; L. L. Morris, evangelist director for the Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas; and Hyman Appelman, evangelist from Kansas City, Mo.

Pastors' Conference Vice President Asks Changes

ANDERSON, S. C. (BP) — A South Carolina pastor who is vice president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference said he plans to recommend two changes in Pastors' Conference procedures when the pastors meet June 10-11 at the Houston Coliseum.
"I recommend that a program committee be established annually, composed of the president and two additional pastors appointed by the vice president and the treasurer," Cecil Chambers, pastor of Centerville Baptist Church, Anderson, S. C., told the Baptist Courier, South Carolina state Baptist newspaper.
He also said he recommends "full disclosure of financial expenditures to state Baptist papers and the Southern Baptist Executive Committee by the Pastors' Conference as a preventative step to keep persons from falsely accusing leaders of the misuse of funds or of secrecy."
"These are men of integrity," he said of the conference officers, "who will welcome the opportunity of displaying openly the way Baptists con-



First, Natchez, Will Dedicate Building

Dedication services and homecoming for First Church, Natchez have been set for April 29, with W. Douglas Hudgins, as guest speaker, for the 11 a.m. worship service. Dinner on the ground has been planned for 12:30 p.m. and open house from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. The Sanctuary Choir under the direction of Ken Miller will present the musical, "Alive Again," with members of the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra, and Al and Debbie Cope of Irving, Tex., soloists. The pastor, Odean W. Puckett, invites former members and friends of the church to these services. One thousand attended the opening service, pictured.

Committee Releases Profile For Foreign Board Executive

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — The successor to Baker J. Cauthen should be a person with unquestioned commitment to foreign missions and preferably should have served as a missionary, a search committee report indicates.
The report, made at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's April

meeting in Kansas City, outlined a three-part profile of the type person being sought as the board's next executive director. Cauthen plans to retire at the end of 1979.
The 15-member group specified that it will seek a person who has "unquestioned commitment to foreign missions, with a broad knowledge and un-

derstanding of missions, preferably including missionary service."
M. Hunter Riggins Jr., the Poquoson, Va., layman who heads the committee, noted in introducing the report, "We cannot accept second best." He said the committee felt it was essential to prepare a profile before starting to consider individuals.
Stressing the importance of divine leadership in the committee's work, the chairman said the report was being presented for "the information" of the board and any suggestions it might have.

SBC Dedication

(Continued from Page 1)
The convention's theme, said James L. Pleitz, chairman of the committee on order of business, is "Bold Mission While It Is Yet Day!" Pleitz, pastor of Park Cities Baptist Church, Dallas, Texas, said, "The aim of this year's convention is to encourage persons to carry through on Bold Mission Thrust. The time has come when we must implement what we have talked about. The business of the convention is to do something about Bold Mission Thrust."
Besides the business of Bold Mission Thrust, the convention will feature the usual sessions for conducting the business of the SBC, including presentation of a proposed \$83 million Cooperative Program unified budget and a

host of other business items and resolutions.
Convention music, directed by William J. Reynolds, church music secretary, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, will include a variety of musical groups. They include the choir of First Baptist Church, San Antonio; The Alabama Singing Men; The Singing Men of Texas; the choir and orchestra of First Baptist Church, New Orleans; the choir of First Baptist Church, Bowling Green, Ky.; the Baylor University Choir and several evangelistic singers.

Vietnam Christians

(Continued from Page 1)
taken to the "new economic zones" to farm the jungle. A clampdown on private shops in March 1978 caused many Chinese to flee the country.
Daily life in Vietnam, even without religious repression, has been enough to convince hundreds of thousands to risk their lives to escape the country. Some of the conditions refugees report:
—Soldiers billeted in some homes to eliminate private conversations.
—Absence of a free press, and threat of internment for listening to shortwave radio broadcasts.
—Special passes required to visit relatives in another part of town.
—Arrests and kidnappings by the government without word to relatives or explanation of the charges.
—Mandatory indoctrination sessions three times a week, lasting from 7 p.m. to late at night.
—Random forced relocation to "new economic zones" in the jungles.
Baptists in Vietnam are not trying to develop ways to reach a long-term working arrangement with the government as is the case in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, Moore said. "I think most of them would give everything they have to get out."
However, in Saigon, Baptists have united with other denominations to form an umbrella group that is recognized by the government.
Getting out may be getting easier. In January the Vietnamese government announced it was going to allow some citizens to leave the country legally. Moore sees that as a government move to gain badly needed western currency by processing exit visas for as much as \$3,000 per person.
Little can be done to relieve the suffering in Vietnam, Moore said, unless Baptists are somehow allowed to send in relief directly to Baptists there. The Foreign Mission Board did respond with \$500 to individual requests for help that got out of the country and were channeled through Hong Kong.
William R. Wakefield, board secretary for Southeast Asia, said the money was a symbol of continuing concern for Baptists in Vietnam and that he was studying other ways of giving encouragement to them.
The board left behind approximately \$400,000 invested in an office building, the seminary and the beginnings of a communications building.

Homecomings

Silver Springs Church, Osyka will celebrate homecoming day on April 29. Kelda Moore will be the guest speaker at the 11 a.m. worship service. Mrs. Mark Johnson, church member, states that dinner will be served on the grounds and that the afternoon service will include singing and more fellowship. James M. Thornhill is the pastor.
Harmon Church in Carroll County will have homecoming April 29, Alvin Kimes of Hattiesburg bringing the message. Services will begin at 10:30; lunch will be spread on tables under the oak trees at noon. Cemetery business will be discussed after lunch. Revival will begin that night at 7:30 with Tom Laughton, pastor of Cruger, preaching.

Actress To Address Ministers' Wives

HOUSTON (BP) — Actress Jeanette Clift George, star of "The Hidden Place," will address the annual meeting of ministers' wives at their luncheon June 12 in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.
Appearing with Mrs. George will be the After Dinner Players, a Christian drama group she organized.
In "The Hidden Place," Mrs. George portrayed Corrie ten Boom, a Dutch lady who saved the lives of scores of Jews in her native Holland during the Nazi occupation. For her work in the film, Mrs. George was nominated for a Golden Apple Award by the Hollywood Women's Press Club. She is equally

well known as a Bible teacher, speaker, monologist and playwright.
Bus transportation will leave from and return to the Summit, site of the SBC sessions June 12-14, for the 12:45 p.m. luncheon at the Marriott Hotel, Astrodome, 2100 S. Braeswood.
Tickets are \$8 and requests should be mailed to Mrs. Julia McMillan, Union Baptist Association, 3910 Travis St., Houston, Texas, 77002.
Current ministers' wives officers are Mrs. John J. Hamilton, president; Mrs. Ralph Langley, vice president; Mrs. Jon Meek, recording secretary; Mrs. Linwood Peterson, corresponding secretary.

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FOR SALE: 32 pews — like new — used 3 years — Colonial design — bronze gold cushions, 18 feet long, available April — May 1979. Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson, MS. Call 956-5000 between 8:30 - 4:30.

FOR SALE: A. B. DICK Model 525 Electric Mimeograph, excellent condition; \$350.00. Mita Copystar Model 900D; treated paper copier, variable copy length, selling price \$800.00. Telephone (601) 948-3997.

N. C. Church Staff Quits Over Charismatics

By Charles Richardson
HIGH POINT, N. C. (BP) — E. W. (Buddy) Price Jr., pastor of the 2,867-member Green Street Baptist Church of High Point, N. C., for 22 years, and three staff members have resigned.

The resignations came at a called church conference two weeks after the congregation approved 10 guidelines recommended by the deacons in response to the spread of the charismatic movement in the church and in High Point.

Reports indicate that the four ministers resigned voluntarily, without animosity, but that they felt enforcement of the guidelines would create a restrictive situation. Others, besides Price, who resigned are Melvin Anderson, business administrator and minister of adult education, a 13-year staffer; James A. Purvis, minister of youth for three years; and James R. Davidson, minister of music for three months.

Price, 58, who has been active in state and national Southern Baptist work, told the Biblical Recorder, North Carolina state Baptist newspaper, that he resigned because he "felt like my work had been completed at Green Street Church. I just prayed a long time about it and felt impressed it was what the Lord wanted me to do. . . I love the people and most of them are responsive in love, too."

He said he was not personally involved in speaking in tongues or with any movement that might be interpreted as outside the traditional ministry of Baptist churches.

"I don't leave with any ill will and was not forced out. My resignation was strictly what I felt God wanted me to do," he said in a telephone interview.

"I am just open to what the Lord might open up in the future," said Price. "I am a Southern Baptist and want to remain in a Southern Baptist church."

The other three staffers' plans also are incomplete and they are reported to be seeking "the Lord's will."

The guidelines, as adopted by the church after being developed in a series of deacons' meetings, sought to restrict charismatic activity within the congregation.

Guideline five, said, "No member of our church or anyone from outside the church membership, shall teach under the auspices of the church, any doctrine except that that is Southern Baptist."

Guideline six stated, "That our church is not a part of the Charismatic movement or the Neo-Pentecostal church."

The seventh guideline called upon the membership to avoid "frequent attendance of and participation in religious meetings retreats, training sessions and other such gatherings at

which doctrines or beliefs are not in harmony with The Baptist Faith and Message . . ."

How many people in the church have charismatic convictions, deacon chairman, W. R. Eddings was asked? Two or three hundred? "I would judge that is about as accurate as anybody could get I suppose," he replied.

Reports indicate that some in the church have had charismatic leanings for nine or 10 years.

(Richardson is associate editor of the Biblical Recorder).

Helsinki — After holding services in rented locations since the Second World War, the Finnish-language Baptist Church here has begun a fund for its own building. The congregational numbers about 50 members.



1st, Clinton Gives Golden Doorknobs

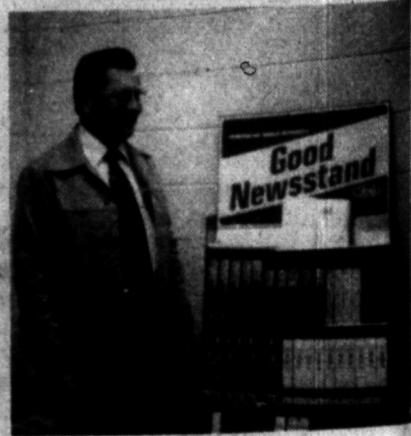
First Church, Clinton recently gave its first Golden Doorknob Awards in each age division in Sunday School. The award is based on number of contacts made per enrollment. This a part of promotion of the Five Fabulous Sundays in April. Contacts have more than tripled, according to Gene Hendrix, minister of education. Shown in the picture are Bruce Bryant, Youth 4 director; Charles Martin, Adult 5 director; Mrs. James Taylor, Preschool 5 director; and Mrs. Bryant Cummings, Children 6 director.

Carter Opposes Congress' Prayer Bill Involvement

WASHINGTON (BP) — President Jimmy Carter urged Congress not to pass legislation permitting so-called "voluntary" prayer in the public schools.

At his televised news conference April 10, Carter was asked the question, "As a born-again Christian, Mr. President, what is your position on prayers in public schools?"

Carter answered: "My preference is that the Congress not get involved in the question of mandating prayer in schools. I am a Christian. I happen to be a Baptist. I believe that the subject of prayer in school ought to be decided between a person, individually and privately, and God. And the Supreme Court has ruled on this issue, and I personally don't think that the Congress ought to pass any legislation requiring or permitting prayer . . . in school."



Good Newsstand

J. B. Costlow, Director of Religious Affairs at Clarke College, stands beside the "Good Newsstand" which has been set up in his office in Lott Fine Arts Building on the Clarke College campus.

The stand was presented to the college by Miss Edwina Robinson in a recent visit to the campus. Miss Robinson is the co-ordinator for the American Bible Society distribution in Mississippi.



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WASHINGTON (BP) — President Jimmy Carter urged Congress not to pass legislation permitting so-called "voluntary" prayer in the public schools.

At his televised news conference April 10, Carter was asked the question, "As a born-again Christian, Mr. President, what is your position on prayers in public schools?"

Carter answered: "My preference is that the Congress not get involved in the question of mandating prayer in schools. I am a Christian. I happen to be a Baptist. I believe that the subject of prayer in school ought to be decided between a person, individually and privately, and God. And the Supreme Court has ruled on this issue, and I personally don't think that the Congress ought to pass any legislation requiring or permitting prayer . . . in school."

English Pastor Re-Visits State

John Hiron, pastor of Sandhurst Baptist Church, Surrey, England, who made his first trip to America last year due to the assistance of the youth of Monticello Baptist Church, is back in the States for a series of preaching engagements.

He spoke last year in many churches in the Monticello area, and toured Mississippi. He visited the Baptist Building, and attended sessions of the Bible Conference held in First Church Jackson at that time. He said he was impressed, and made plans to return to America this year. He is preaching in revivals in Louisiana and Mississippi during his stay. One such revival will be at Calvary Church, Silver Creek, the week of April 25-29.

Doug Warren, Calvary pastor, said, "He has done much youth work throughout Europe in addition to his pastoral responsibilities, and plans to return to England in May. His church is the only evangelical witness in a town of 16,000. His insight into the religious decline of America, based on what happened in England, is sobering."

Christian School Workers To Meet

HOUSTON (BP) — W. A. Criswell, pastor of First Baptist, Dallas, the largest Southern Baptist church, and singer Cynthia Clawson will be featured at a Southern Baptist Christian School rally June 13 at the Second Baptist Church in Houston.

The meeting, for persons interested in Christian schools, is one of several meetings planned around the annual sessions of the Southern Baptist Convention June 12-14. No SBC session is scheduled during the Wednesday afternoon meeting.

Charles Freeman, chairman of the planning committee for the SBC Christian School Association which is sponsoring the event, hopes the meeting will alert persons of the activities of Christian school workers. He said there will be an organizational meeting of a National Association of Southern Baptist Christian schools in conjunction with a 1980 Christian School management seminar in Nashville.

Thursday, April 19, 1979

SBC Week

Woman's Missionary Union To Shoot Battery Of Speakers

HOUSTON, Texas (BP) — A battery of missionaries and state and national Southern Baptist leaders will address themselves to the needs of the denomination's Bold Mission Thrust at the annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union, June 10-11, in Houston's Civic Center Music Hall.

The WMU meeting is one of several meetings preceding the 122nd annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 12-14, in The Summit and the Astrodome.

The four sessions for the WMU meeting, which begins at 3 p.m., Sunday, June 11, with a Bold Mission Thrust Rally, will deal with the theme "Go Quickly and Tell."

Major addresses will be delivered by Baker J. Cauthen, executive director of the Foreign Mission Board, Richmond, Va.; William G. Tanner, executive director-treasurer of the Home Mission Board, Atlanta; Porter W. Routh, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee, Nashville, Tenn.; Charles W. Bryan, the Foreign Mission Board's secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean; Mildred McWhorter, a home missionary in Houston; Jimmy R. Allen of San Antonio, Texas, SBC president; Carolyn Weatherford, Birmingham, Ala.; and Mrs. A. Harrison Gregory of Danville, Va., national WMU president.

WMU will officially honor Cauthen and Routh, longtime supporters of the organization, who will retire from their posts within the year.

The Bold Mission Thrust Rally, to which more than 250 churches in the Houston area may send representatives without disrupting regular Sunday Services, will feature Cauthen and Tanner; Mrs. Audley Hamrick, home missionary in Cubero, N. M.; Claudio Iglesias, home missionary in Albuquerque, N. M.; Giles M. and Wana Ann Fort, both foreign missionary physicians in Zimbabwe/Rhodesia; W. C. and Helen Ruchti, foreign missionaries to Rome, Italy; and David Fort, a physician in Dallas, Texas, and foreign missions volunteer. The rally will open with a gigantic procession of international flags and some 200 missionaries.

Mrs. James Putman, home missionary in Conroe, Texas, and other missionaries will participate in the dramatically-staged "theme" interpretation and time of prayer.

Interviews conducted by Don Rhymes, Home Mission Board mis-

sionary personnel officer, and by Louis Cobbs, Foreign Mission Board missionary personnel secretary, will show how churches produce persons called by God into missions.

At 5:30 on Sunday evening, WMU will sponsor a dinner at the Sheraton-Houston Hotel for women in or considering a church-related vocation. Tickets must be purchased in advance of the annual meeting dates from WMU national headquarters in Birmingham, Ala.

Monday morning's session at 9:30 will feature missions in the state Baptist conventions, leading off with Ernest Myers of Reno, Nev., executive director of the newly-formed Nevada Area Baptist Convention. Other state convention executives will be interviewed, and Routh and Mrs. Gregory will speak.

The 1:45 session on Monday afternoon includes election of officers and features missions in Texas, presented by Mrs. Huis Coy Egge, president of Texas WMU, and by Eula Mae Henderson, executive director of Texas WMU.

Among the missionaries to be interviewed will be Mrs. Archie Dunaway, widow of the missionary slain in Zimbabwe/Rhodesia, and Hal Boone, missionary physician whose career in Kenya was cut short by an automobile accident. They will tell "The Joys and Crises of Missionary Life."

Monday evening's session at 7:00 will honor pastors, with recognition to all those in the audience. Persons featured in the program are Harry Varnadoe, pastor of Francis Baptist Church in Palatka, Fla., whose 150 active members raised \$16,000 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions recently; Victor Kaneubbe, a home missionary pastor from Phoenix, Ariz.; Mrs. John Christy, pastor's wife in Vermillion, S. D., where WMU was the first program organized in a new church and aided in building the church; Bob Sena, pastor of First Mexican Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, Frank Pollard, pastor of First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., whose missions weekends led by the WMU director have resulted in a Christmas offering exceeding \$80,000; Gene Watterson, pastor of First Baptist Church, Shelby, N. C., who will tell how WMU has aided his church in sponsoring an unusually large number of volunteers in missions.

SBC President Jimmy Allen, pastor of the First Baptist Church of San An-

tonio, Texas, which has an active WMU, will close the program.

Mrs. Gregory, WMU president, and Mrs. William Ellis of Shelbyville, N. C., WMU recording secretary, are in their fourth annual terms. Dan Sampson, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Pasadena, Texas, will direct music for the meeting.

(The story above refers to Zimbabwe/Rhodesia. It is the name given what was formerly Rhodesia in a new constitution accepted January 30 by the white minority electorate of the country. Rhodesia is the name given the country as a British colony and Zimbabwe is taken from an ancient African ruin in the country.)

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Orientation

(Continued from Page 1)

that the department presentations are vital to the work of the association.

All expenses for the officers will be paid by the convention board.



Pascagoula Building Campaign

First Baptist Church, Pascagoula, recently completed a church building fund campaign and raised \$355,251 in cash and pledges toward their renovation and new building program. The steering committee for the campaign were, front row left to right — Mac Travis, chairman of steering committee; Walter Smith, chairman of publicity committee; Peggy Saliba, chairman of furnishings committee; Edna Langworthy, chairman of program committee; Peggy Wilkinson, secretary of steering committee; and Tom Searcy, chairman of finance committee. Middle row — Clark W. McMurray, pastor; and E. J. Smith, chairman of construction committee. Back row — Marc Beaver, music minister; Deborah Thomas, youth and activities director; Bob Gray, minister of education; and Dennis Gibson, chairman of plans committee and vice-chairman of steering committee. John Alexander of the state stewardship staff directed the campaign.

Record Attendance At Spring Meeting

Jeff Davis Churches Endorse Mission Project In Arizona

Jefferson Davis Association held its annual spring meeting on April 3 at Hepzibah Church. The record attendance represented all 15 churches; 85 messengers and all pastors were present.

In addition to the election of officers for 1979-1980 the Association's Messengers adopted a Long Range Planning Report; a World Missions Conference for 1980 was scheduled; and a Bible Conference for the fall of 1979 was proposed.

The main item of business was the

adoption of the 'Arizona Bold Missions Project' in which some 30 pastors, laymen, and wives will be involved in church construction, leadership training, and various skills.

The churches were requested to contribute to a 'special fund' for the purchase of some building materials for the projects, and to provide travel, meals, and lodging expenses for volunteers from the local churches. The group will be traveling to Phoenix, Ariz. to be involved in the project during the week of May 25 - June 2, states L. B. Atchison, Director of Missions.

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The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Editorials

Northwest Missions . . .

Mississippi Family Provides Boldness

Nolan Mapp, then pastor of Unity Baptist Church at Pascagoula, would not compare himself to Abraham. But when he felt the Lord moving in his life to go into an area where the gospel has not been heard nearly as much as in the Bible belt, he packed up his belongings and left Pascagoula without actually knowing where he would find his place of service.

Rather than moving with a tent and a camel caravan, Mapp and his family drove their car, pulling a travel trailer.

The Mapps had an interest in the Northwest, and that is where they found their place of service; but when they left Pascagoula, they felt the destination could have been the Northwest, Montana or one of the Dakotas, or Arizona. They were looking for a place of service where they were needed.

Their interest in the Northwest came from the fact that they had had a pastor in Gautier, W. C. Burns, who had been there and came back to tell of the area. Also, they had been reading of the needs in the Northwest in the *Baptist Record*; and they had decided that somewhere in Washington-Oregon would be their first stop.

Way Is Paved

The way had been paved for them to some extent by Athens McNeil, pastor of Griffin Street Church in Moss Point. McNeil had been in the Northwest in March of 1978, and he had taken a resume for Mapp to the Northwest Convention office in Portland, Ore. The

story of what happened from that time on is interesting, but the story of what caused the Nolan Mapps to come to that place in their lives is just as much so.

Mapp was born in Hattiesburg and grew up in the McLaurin community. In 1968, when he was 31 years of age, he was converted. He was in the trucking industry at that time. He had worked in the office, in the warehouse, had been a driver, and had been in sales. Shortly after his conversion, however, he became dissatisfied with his work and felt the Lord wanted him in some special service. About two months following his conversion he surrendered to the ministry.

His conversion experience had come about as he was driving along Highway 49 between Wiggins and Hattiesburg, and the changed life of a friend who had accepted Christ was a big factor in his decision.

When he surrendered to the ministry he was only a high school graduate, so on the advice of a friend he enrolled in the diploma program at New Orleans Seminary. He provided for his family by secular work in New Orleans until he was called to the Pine Crest Church in Jackson Association. Later he was called to the New Bethlehem Church at Magee. He could see the need for a college education and enrolled at William Carey College.

Following Graduation

Following graduation he became pastor of Unity Church, and was there for four years. After about three years he began to hear from the Lord about pioneer work. And that is where this story actually begins.

This takes us back to the experience of W. C. Burns, now in Pike Association, in going to the Northwest and coming back to report and to the needs that were expressed through the pages of the *Baptist Record*. He began to be impressed with the fact that there were more than 40 churches in the Jackson Association in Mississippi and only 14 in the Olympic Association in Washington. Yet 90 per cent of the people in some areas of the Olympic Peninsula were unchurched.

His conclusion was that "God could use our lives in a more profitable way in that area." His wife agreed. They reasoned that if they were to ever follow through on their interest, the time had come. But they didn't rush. It was at this time, a little more than a year ago, that they sent the resume to Portland by Athens McNeil. A church from the area wrote to see if he might be interested. He replied that he was definitely on the way and would be in contact.

He had already bought his travel trailer, which he had dedicated to the Lord. He sold his excess furniture and

got ready to go. His church at Pascagoula was aware of his concern and was praying with him about it. His last Sunday there was the first week in May of last year.

The Mapps spent two weeks with his mother in McLaurin and took off. They left behind a daughter and a granddaughter. Two sons went with them. The younger is now 18.

"We wanted to be in the Lord's will where we were needed," Mapp said. "We didn't care where it was."

It took them five days to get to Portland pulling their travel trailer. They contacted Bill Crews, then editor of the state paper, and Dan Stringer, executive secretary.

Preaching Engagement

Preaching engagements were arranged, but they felt that Portland was not the place. They made their way on to Port Orchard, Wash., parked their trailer there, and called Weldon Stevens, the associational director of missions. Stevens didn't know the Mapps. He had never heard of them. But he knew his association with 13 churches that could not pay full-time salaries needed help. He decided to see what Mapp could offer.

Mapp, from his secular experience, had made a commitment to a bi-vocational ministry. Wherever it was he felt he was needed, he was prepared to stay as long as was necessary while paying his own way. He actually was looking for a place where there was no church. Stevens arranged for him to preach at First Church, Montesano, Wash., however, and doors began to open.

The church helped him to get established in a mobile home. A month ago I visited him in that home. Mobile homes are used to a great extent on the Olympic Peninsula. They are well

kept, attractive, and comfortable.

A man in the church helped Mapp to get a job driving a school bus, and the entire concept began to take on an air of excitement.

"There has been no sacrifice," he said. "With my church salary and my bus driving job I am making as much as I was in Mississippi. The Lord has always given back more than we have given." He only regret is that he doesn't have time to spend in growing a church. "There is so much to do. The need is overwhelming."

Mapp says there are several growing towns in his area without any Southern Baptist witness. Southern Baptists, he said, are the only group trying to witness to the lost. Other religious groups would simply say — come if you will.

Reaching the Lost

The Southern Baptist witness, he says, is reaching the lost. He tries to find the Southern Baptists in the area to provide a base of operations. But so many are lost, he continues, and don't have the gospel "as we preach it."

"There is more than I could do in several lifetimes. If another person came out here there would be plenty to do."

Montesano has a population of about 4,000. First Baptist Church has 129 members.

"The person who comes out here must be committed to just come and do what is necessary. He must be able to take care of himself and his family. He must be able to get where he is going or be willing to do what ever is necessary to get there," Mapp declares.

This is bold missions in action. A Mississippi family is out in front showing the way.

Stevens says he could use a lot more like them. — DTM

Children's Village . . .

Annual Clothing Emphasis

We hope readers make a part of their readership the Mississippi Baptist Children's Village material that is in the *Baptist Record* once a month. Rather than mailing out its own publication each month, the Village takes a half-page ad in the *Baptist Record*. The Village pays the regular advertising rate for Mississippi Baptist institutions and finds this less expensive than publishing and mailing its own publication.

We feel this is good stewardship, and we would call your attention to it. The material usually is printed in the first issue of the month.

In this month's ad Executive Direc-

tor Paul Nunery has called attention to the annual emphasis at the Village called Dress a Child at Easter. Though Easter Sunday has just passed, it is not too late to be a part of the effort to provide these children with adequate clothing.

Mississippi Baptists have accepted the challenge of providing for these children. We have no choice but to face up to our responsibilities. It is not likely that more clothing than is needed would be provided, so let's try to be sure that at least as much as is needed is provided.

These children look to Mississippi Baptists for their continued well being.



Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

Needed: More Siestas

"Dese prisa!" I urged the taxi driver. "Please hurry. I'm late!" We raced through narrow streets, zigzagging around the people who leisurely crossed in front of us, past the sprawling marketplace, past block after block of flat-topped adobe houses to the outermost skirts of Guadalajara. Scarcely had we stopped when I tossed the driver 20 pesos, slammed the door, and darted across the sunlit plaza. For a visitor to be so late, I felt would be unforgivably rude.

Into a narrow hallway, across an open patio, through a small classroom, across an inner courtyard, and finally to the entrance of the tiny auditorium, I panted. When I opened the door, I saw a roomful of benches, all empty.

Had I misunderstood? Would there be no services today? I located the director of the mission, a charming, grey-haired senora, quietly folding lesson leaflets.

"Where are the people?" I asked.

"They have not come yet."

"But you told me Sunday School would start at 11."

Gently she reproved me: "They will be here."

Then I remembered that in Mexico people seldom hurry. Unfortunately, this marvelous custom has not become a part of life in the United States. Most of us have schedules to keep and "miles to go before we sleep."

We need to learn to relax and take an occasional siesta as the Mexicans do, without letting ourselves become slaves to schedules. Yet, too, we need to learn the value of time planning, the value of punctuality. How can we do both?

Following a planned-time pattern can eventually form the habit of punctuality (I keep telling myself.) Goethe said, "One always has enough time if one will apply it well." Plan ahead, but don't plan to do more than you have time to do. If you try to undertake more than you can do, you'll be so frustrated you can't do anything well. Be realistic.

Set the hardest tasks for your best hour. Place similar activities near to-

gether. Get up when the alarm goes off. Rise with enthusiasm, not reluctance. It is possible to control your thought habits, too. Never allow such negative ideas as "If I only had 30 more minutes to sleep" or "If it were only Saturday." If you don't feel like getting up, look for the reason why. Are you tired? Do you get yearly checkups from your doctor, your dentist, your oculist? Do you go to bed early enough? Do you have a good bed so you can rest well?

Figure out the easiest and quickest way to cook breakfast, or to dress for work. Eliminate unnecessary tasks. In planning, give yourself a little bonus time to drink a second cup of coffee, to pick a bouquet of flowers, to read a magazine article, to listen to a television newscast, to talk to your spouse, to meditate, to pray, to read your Bible.

Don't waste time in indecision. Plunge ahead. Do something. Don't just stand there thinking which dress? which suit? which tie? while the minutes tick by. Indecision is a deadly enemy of punctuality. Decide the night before what you'll wear the next day.

In planning your trip work, allow time for freight trains, traffic jams, flash floods, and flat tires.

Sometimes, surprise yourself by doing something special or different. Change the routine. "Take a vacation" from your schedule for a day or a week or for one weekend morning. Change your style of doing things. Make the ordinary become extraordinary. Get up sooner than usual, or later. Walk to work. Ride the bus. Run around the block before breakfast. Treat yourself to strawberries and cream.

Learn to be . . . not a procrastinator like Mr. Micawber, but a modern-day Johnny-on-the-spot, poised and ready to meet any situation.

As Billy Graham said: "Time is a trust . . . Time cannot be recalled; it can only be redeemed. . . ."

(By Anne Washburn McWilliams, reprinted from *Church Administration*, used by permission.)

Letters To The Editor

Anti Hunting Remarks

Editor:

Whether intended or not, the cover illustrated for the April, May, June 1979 Adult Bible Study and Adult Bible Teacher has either or both an anti-gun or anti-hunting impact. The theme of the entire cover is apparent — world problems with strong emphasis on war and pollution. I can comprehend the offshore oil derrick and smokestacks from industrial plant representing pollution. The two soldiers firing military weapons portray war. The most prominent single aspect of the collage, from perspective if not from mass, portrays a man sighting down a shotgun barrel. The shotgun has a vented rib, and the illustration on the Adult Bible Teacher seems to contain a center bead on the rib. If so, the gun portrayed is designed for shooting clay birds in skeet and also for shooting upland game birds such as quail, dove, grouse, etc. The shooter's outer shirt or jacket, despite being portrayed in the abstract, as well as the bare head suggests a skeet shooter rather than a hunter. This part of the collage does not support the general theme or any of the words surrounding the globe on the cover except for the word "war." Very seldom is the shotgun used as a war weapon.

If the anti-gun or anti-hunting image is unintentional, the cover is unfortunate for anti-gun and anti-hunting proponents may readily assume that the Southern Baptist Convention supports their cause. If the idea is intentional, I cannot see the justification of anti-gun or anti-hunting in the cover theme or in literature distributed as representing the consensus of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Among other things I am a 47-year old Christian, deacon, Sunday School teacher, English instructor, and hunter. I would appreciate an explanation or justification.

Thomas R. Mayes
Decatur

I very much regret the interpretation that is possible from the type of gun shown on the cover of the Adult Life and Work study materials for April, May, June, 1979.

You are correct in that our theme related to world problems. We did NOT intend to make a statement either for or against guns or hunting.

Please accept my apology for not comprehending the possible implications of the art.

Thank you for your interest and concern. Please continue to share with us the effectiveness of our materials for your study of the Bible.

Jerry Ross, Manager
Art Department
Baptist Sunday School Board

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Nolan Mapp, left, former Mississippi pastor who is now pastor of First Baptist Church, Montesano, Wash., visits with Weldon Stevens, associational director of missions for the Olympic Association in Washington.

Guest Opinion . . .

All Things (Wine) Not Going Better With Coke

By Pressnell H. Wood
Baptist Standard, Texas

The Coca-Cola Company of Atlanta, Ga., has recently made big news concerning its entry into the People's Republic of China to sell its famous product. The Coke people are pleased with this potential business bonanza.

There is another news item concerning the Coca-Cola company's business that is also big news. The Coca-Cola Company is into the wine business in a big way.

Apparently the people in Atlanta are not too ready to talk about this phase of their future. In the course of 30 days five calls were made to the Coca-Cola Company without getting answers. Finally the company issued a statement which included the following:

"The decision by the Coca-Cola Company to enter into the . . . wine industry was made only after careful study, research and analysis to insure that it was an appropriate and desirable addition to the company's select product mix. It is the conviction of the Coca-Cola Company that its diversification has been and will continue to be a sound, positive and beneficial decision for its shareholders, consumers and employees . . . The marketing and distribution aspects of the wine business interests will, however, remain separate and distinct from the soft drink portion of the business."

More information is supplied from an article in the *Houston Chronicle* in which Albert E. Killeen, executive vice-president of Coca-Cola, Atlanta, chronicled Coke's entry into the wine business through acquisition of Taylor Wine Company, Sterling Wine Company and Monterey Vineyards. The Taylor company alone reportedly cost

\$93 million.

"Coca-Cola has had a long history of showing indifference to any alcoholic beverages, but it's a changing world," said Killeen. He was also quoted as saying "Coca-Cola has no hobbies except success. We can grow the hell out of this (wine business) thing."

Neither Killeen nor the Coca-Cola Company can take the hell out of alcoholic beverages. Many are existing in a living hell because of addiction to alcohol. A changing world has not changed the high price our society pays for the use of alcoholic beverages. Drinking drivers are still one of the major causes of automobile accidents. Broken homes are still attri-

buted to the use of alcoholic beverages.

The wholesome image of the Coca-Cola Company has been tarnished by wine.

It needs to be remembered that the local Coca-Cola bottling companies are separately owned and operated from the Coca-Cola Company in Atlanta. The Coca-Cola Company manufactures beverage syrups which it sells to local bottling companies who produce the finished soft drinks for sale in their areas. At present, the Coca-Cola Company said, there are no plans to distribute the wine through the soft drink distributors.

The entrance of Coca-Cola Company

Book Reviews

EQUALITY AND SUBMISSION IN MARRIAGE, Dr. John Christian Howell. Broadman, April 1979. \$5.95.

John Christian Howell is academic dean and professor of Christian ethics at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City.

The author first sets marriage and the family in biblical perspective and discusses the persons involved in marriage as being created male/female, designed to fulfill each other, bearing equal responsibility for sin, and achieving equal personhood in Christ. He then discusses the theology of equality and submission in the Christian life and defines submission as "the yieldedness given by one person to another on the basis of voluntary choice because of loving relationships." He states that such yieldedness is to be expressed by each family member toward the other, not just by the wife to her husband. He

devotes one chapter, "Mutual Submission in Family Relationships," to this thesis, discussing primarily the much misinterpreted Ephesians passage 5:21-6:4.

Another important chapter deals with the qualities of relationships in the home — authentic love, shared joy, mutual respect, expressed forgiveness, accepted grace, and continuing growth. He devotes the last section in a critique of various models of marital relationships and concludes that "couples who love each other in the fullest sense of Christian love and who are committed to Christ's leadership can work out any one of a number of modifications of these patterns of relationships and find happiness." He states, "How a given couple form their own relationship will be influenced by parental models, personality and temperamental characteristics, religious

teachings, and personal experience." On at least half dozen occasions, I have heard Dr. Howell give the lectures upon which this treatise is based. Now having them in a book only enhances my appreciation for the contribution he has made to what the Bible says about man/woman relationship. — J. Clark Hensley

THE EXCITEMENT OF ANSWERED PRAYER by Virginia Whitman (Baker, \$1.75, paper, 160 pp.) This is an inspirational book, relating story after story of God at work giving generous and loving answers to prayers. Many lessons on prayer in the Bible are retold with sparkle. The closing chapter is called Prayer Primer and gives sample prayers for different occasions.

Names In The News . . .

Joseph Edward Kelly was licensed to the gospel ministry at Trinity Church, Waynesboro, on March 18. Joe, 18-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. (Buck) Kelly, is a senior at Beat Four High School where he plays trombone in the band. He plans to enter Clarke College, and study to become a youth director. He was presented the license in the morning worship service during which he brought the message. J. Mitchell Osborne is pastor at Trinity.

John Claypool, pastor of Northminister Church in Jackson, will speak at The University of Mississippi on Thursday, April 26, as part of the University's Religious Emphasis Speaker Series. The lecture, scheduled for 8 p.m. in the Ole Miss Union Ballroom is sponsored by the Committee of 100 campus interfaith group and the University's Department of Religious Life. Claypool is a former president of the Kentucky Baptist Convention. He delivered the 1972 Hester Lectures on Preaching at Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, the 1974 Mullins Lectures on Preaching at Southern Seminary in Louisville, and the 1978 Beecher Lectures at Yale University.

First Church of Waynesboro recently ordained DeJuan Walley to the full gospel ministry. The request for ordination came from the Water Oak Church of Clara. At the ordination service Deacon Guy Walker presented the Bible; W. W. Walley presented the certificate; and Wayne Giles of the Water Oak Church gave the charge to the church and the candidate. The pastor, Jimmy Hodges, preached the ordination sermon. The young minister, DeJuan Walley, is a student at Mobile College.

Willis Thrasher, a student at the Addie McBride Center for the Blind in Jackson, has said he would be available to help other blind students with a Christian witness in music, evangelism, Bible study, and devotionals. He had material that would prove helpful also, he said. His home number in Jackson is 353-9684. At the center the daytime number is 982-9228, and the dormitory number is 982-9245.

John A. Wilson was ordained to the gospel ministry at First Church of Lyman, Gulfport, on March 21. A. Harrison Weger, Blytheville, Ark., Wilson's former pastor at Lyman, preached the ordination sermon. Wilson, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson of Lyman, is married to Angela Darlene Myers of Escatawpa. They are attending Hannibal LaGrange College, Hannibal, Mo., and he has been called to the pastorate of Nelsonville Baptist Church, Ewing, Mo. While at Clarke College, Wilson was president of the Baptist Student Union there. Patrick Henry is the Lyman pastor.

Tony Lambert was licensed to preach, in a March 25 ceremony at Bassfield Church. Tommy Arlander, pastor, presented the certificate of license. Lambert, a student at William Carey College, lives at Route 3, Box 15, Sumrall 39482. He has preached at Bassfield occasionally and has led Wednesday night prayer services. He is available for pulpit supply or summer work with youth (phone 758-4932).

Ronald Rhea will begin serving June 10, as associate to the pastor at the Shiloh Baptist Chapel in Malone, New York. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Grover Rhea (deceased) of Myrtle, Mississippi.

Winfield and LaVerne Applewhite, missionaries to Indonesia, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Box 1, Bukittinggi, Indonesia).

(Windell and Laquita Powers, missionary associates to Taiwan, may be addressed at Chung Ching Rd., BOT Compound, No. 66, Taichung 400, Taiwan, Republic of China.

John and Clara Scholander, missionaries to South West Africa, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: P. O. Box 542, Clinton, Miss. 39056).

Mrs. Lula M. Nickey, mother of Mrs. Tom D. Sumrall, missionary associate to Brazil, died March 13. Mrs. Sumrall may be addressed at Caixa 409, 30000 Belo Horizonte, MG, Brazil. She is the former Jane Nickey of McComb, Miss.

Ellis W. Hollon, professor of philosophy of religion at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, died on Sunday, April 8, following an automobile accident on April 6 near the Southeastern campus in Wake Forest, N. C. Hollon, 46, had been on the faculty at Southeastern since 1967. He was a native of Little Rock, Ark. Hollon is survived by his wife, Gurtha DePriest, and one daughter, Faye, 15.

W. A. Duncan, a past president of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and long-time Baptist denominational leader, died at the Baptist Village Retirement Home, Waycross, Ga., at age 87.

E. Warren Rust, national consultant for the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board metropolitan missions department, died April 5, in Phoenix, Ariz., following lengthy bouts with respiratory disease ending with heart failure. Rust, 63, had recently become a consultant after serving nearly eight years as a staffer in the metro missions department, first as a department director, then as associate director because health problems required his relocation to Arizona.

MC Will Honor Six Teachers Of Bible

Six long-time teachers of Bible and Religion at Mississippi College will be specially honored by the Division of Religion at 10 a.m., April 20, in Province Chapel.

These six, M. O. Patterson, E. L. Douglas, Howard E. Spell, Norman O'Neal, E. R. Pinson, and Wm. W. Stevens, are men who taught fifteen years or more at Mississippi College in the field of Religion. Each of them made a distinctive contribution to the institution and to the many students who studied under them. Three of these outstanding Christian educators are deceased. The other three, each holding the title of Professor Emeritus, are again serving the college and its students this semester by teaching classes left without an instructor by the untimely death of Wm. W. Stevens last December.

In a brief ceremony the contribution of these will be recognized, and their portraits will be hung to remain permanently in Province Chapel, which now houses the Division of Religion. A reception in their honor will follow the service. All friends of these men and their families are invited to participate in this service honoring them.

Kemper Holds First County Youth Crusade

The first countywide youth crusade that Kemper Association has ever sponsored was held March 29-April 1.

Glenn Goldman, associational youth director, and Kermit Sharp, director of missions, coordinated the crusade.

Services were held in different churches each night, with fellowship periods following. Thursday through Saturday nights average attendance was 110, mostly young people. Churches met together for the Sunday night service, and attendance was 350.

Al Fike of Leakesville was evangelist; Tim Robertson from DeKalb directed the music; and Denise Houston of Brandon was pianist.

Goldman stated, "Many decisions and rededications were made and a closer knit Christian fellowship was formed within the county."

Thursday, April 19, 1979

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



Seminary Trustees

These are the trustees of Mississippi Baptist Seminary. Front Row (left to right) David Mayhall, Fred Tarpley, Jeff Walters, R. E. Willis. Second Row — Mrs. James (Mignon) Tadlock, Steve McNeely, Carl Savell, William P. Davis; Third Row — J. T. Pannell, L. Z. Blankinship, J. V. Posey, Richard Brogan, Hickman Johnson. Trustees not in picture: George Purvis, Mrs. Sidney Ellis, Mrs. W. J. Summers, E. E. Evans, H. C. Cherry, R. H. Walls, W. T. Guice, R. S. Porter.

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May 8

Hattiesburg, Main Street Bill Latham
Greenwood, First Dan Wynn
Brookhaven, Easthaven James Webster
Columbus, East End Jimmy Dunn
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7:00 p.m. — 9:00 p.m.

Vicksburg WMU Invites Missionaries And MKs To Jamboree On April 28

The Woman's Missionary Union of First Church, Vicksburg, will stage a Missionary Jamboree April 28 for home and foreign missionaries on furlough in the state, retired missionaries, and missionary kids. Coffee will be served at the Activities Building of First Church at 10

a.m. where missionaries and church members will have a chance to meet. A bus tour of the Vicksburg Military Park will be offered. Lunch will be served at the church.

By 1:30 p.m. the missionary guests will be free to spend the rest of the day seeing Vicksburg. The annual flea

market will be held that day on the grounds of the Old and New Court-houses.

Mrs. Kenneth Grogan, WMU director, has asked that those who plan to come write her by April 21 at 1718 Eisenhower Drive, Vicksburg, Miss. 39180.

Communists Allow Collections

BERLIN (RNS) — Reversing one of the strictest measures of Communist countries in the past, the East German government will now allow both Protestant and Catholic street collections at certain limited times.

The Federation of Evangelical Churches announced it has received state permission to solicit publicly on

May 24-27 for "church construction" and on Nov. 22-25 for "inner-mission work and relief." Street collections "for institutional construction in the Catholic Church" were permitted March 22-25 and will be allowed Oct. 11-14 "for charitable causes of the Catholic Church."

Staff Changes

Walter H. Davis has been called as minister of music and youth of the Colonial Hills Church in Southaven.

Harold Smith was recently called as minister of music and youth at Ruleville Church. He moved from West Jackson Street Church in Tupelo where he served for six years. Smith is a graduate of Delta State and attended New Orleans Seminary. He is married to the former Shirley Walker of Drew and is the father of three children. He was raised in Ruleville and graduated from high school there. His mother and several other family members are members of the Ruleville Church.

Paul Powell, assistant librarian at Mississippi College, has been called to the Utica Church as part-time minister of music and youth. He is a native of Jena, La. and now makes his home in Jackson. He is a graduate of Louisiana College, and has a Master's Degree in music from New Orleans Seminary and a Master's degree in library science from L.S.U. John Ed Snell is Utica pastor.

First Church of Helena has called Terry Long as associate pastor and minister of youth. He goes to Helena from Agricola Church. He is attending William Carey College. He is married to the former Judy Smith of Moss Point.

Lake Washington First Baptist Church
Glen Allen, Mississippi

plans to dispose of material and equipment in its old building. Among the many items are 18 pews and a matching set of platform chairs and pulpit, all less than 10 years old; six stained glass, non-memorial windows, sash type; Rheem central air conditioning unit; gas central heating unit; space heaters; and several window units.

The church requests sealed bids by May 15 and reserves the right to refuse any bid it considers too low. Material and equipment list may be obtained by calling Kirby Love, 839-5511 days or 839-6401 nights or Bob Smith, pastor, 839-2405.

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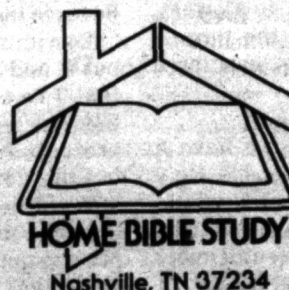
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WAPT-TV • Ch. 16
8:00 AM Sunday

"At Home With The Bible" is produced by the Sunday School Board of the Southern Baptist Convention in cooperation with the Radio and Television Commission, SBC.

Utica Church Will Celebrate Its 150th Year On April 29

Utica Church of Utica will celebrate its 150th anniversary on April 29.

The history of the church has been researched and compiled into a 174-page book by one of the present members, Mrs. Mary Nell Landin.

During the week preceding the Sunday Celebration of the anniversary, a revival is being conducted with all the living former pastors taking part. Monday night, April 23, through Friday night, April 27, former pastors are, in order of their pastorates and

preaching nights: H. H. Hargrove of Waco, Tex.; Young Gerrard of Yazoo City; W. T. Dixon of Sand Hill; Howard Brister of McComb; and Jack Albritton of Daphne, Ala.

The celebration of Sunday, April 29, will find Fred Tarpley of Jackson preaching during the morning service. Tarpley is the associational director of missions for Hinds-Madison Association and has often supplied as interim-pastor at Utica.

Lunch will be provided by the church. An afternoon service is plan-

ned, beginning at 2 o'clock to review the history of the church and to hear from former pastors and members.

John Ed Snell, present pastor, states that all friends and former members of the Utica Church are invited to share in this occasion.

Helms Wins, Loses Senate Prayer Votes

By Stan Hastey

WASHINGTON (BP) — Conservative U. S. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., won a tainted victory when his effort to remove "voluntary" school prayer from the jurisdiction of the federal courts won one vote, then lost another more important test in Senate action April 9.

Helms, a Southern Baptist who has for years opposed the position taken by many leaders in his denomination on the explosive subject of prayer in the public schools, first saw his amendment attached to a bill refining certain jurisdictional questions for the U.S. Supreme Court. But then he watched as Senate leaders stripped the amendment from a measure which would create a new Department of Education.

The Senate leadership, keyed by Majority Leader Robert C. Byrd, D-W. Va., devised the strategy after Helms' amendment surprisingly was attached to the Department of Education bill on April 5. The leadership opposed that action for fear that it would scuttle the measure. If enacted, the bill would take education out of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) and set up a separate cabinet-level Department for Education alone.

Byrd's strategy worked to perfection. After introducing the Helms language as an amendment to the Supreme Court bill, Byrd proceeded to vote for the Helms proposal, which passed 51-40. Immediately after that vote, however, Byrd moved to strip the Helms language from the Department of Education bill, succeeding in a 53-40 roll call vote.

During debate on the latter move, Helms argued that his proposal would be "effectively killed" if left attached

A Gospel Sing will be held April 21 at 7 p.m. at First Church, McHenry. The featured singer will be Lois Jane of Williamsburg, Ky., "who turned down a lucrative contract in country music to follow, as she puts it, 'that little voice inside, of God' to devote her time to 'God's call' to her."

A Gospel Sing will be held April 22 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Pass Road, Gulfport, according to Russell Bradford, the McHenry pastor. This Sing will also feature Lois Jane.

Arabic Broadcasting Gets Record Response, Expands

BEIRUT, Lebanon (BP) — The Arabic Project, a Southern Baptist plan to reach the entire Arab world with Christian radio broadcasts, had a record 200 responses in one month recently and plans to expand programming.

William T. (Pete) Dunn, Southern Baptist missionary director, said the ministry received 200 letters from 13 different nations in one month — more than ever before in the same period of time.

"The numbers may not be large, but in these hot and dry lands it is like a breath of fresh air on a cool morning," Dunn said.

Dunn also announced the ministry's plans to expand into another language, Berber. Berber is the language of more than 15 million people living in Morocco, Algeria and parts of Tunisia. The Arabic Project is already receiving some response from these countries.

The Berber people live in villages or as nomads in the Sahara Desert region of north Africa. A Berber Christian graduate of the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut wrote the series of programs and will voice them from Trans World Radio's 1.2 million-watt station in Monte Carlo, Monaco.

The Berber programs are part of a total project designed to cover "every Arabic-speaking country with the good news of God's love for all mankind," Dunn said.

One of the goals of the project is to bring together interested Arabs for Bible study and worship. In 1978, seven such groups in three countries were

established with more than 100 young men meeting together weekly. An evangelist from the Baptist center in Beirut recently revisited a group of 22 young men who have been meeting for almost a year in a neighboring country. He found them studying the scriptures and meeting together twice a week for prayer.

The group's leader told of its visitation program, in which nine teams of two men go into surrounding villages while the remainder stay at someone's home to pray for them.

Occasional visits from the evangelist, their Bibles and the radio programs are usually the only resources these small groups have for establishing their congregations. Some material is sent in response to requests initiated through the broadcasts, but no missionary work is allowed in many Muslim countries.

Ventnor, N. J. — Evangelical Christians are being challenged to give more serious concern to the adoption of a simple life-style. That concern was given expression and priority at the 1974 International Congress on World Evangelization which was held in Lausanne, Switzerland. The Lausanne covenant, adopted at the conclusion of that gathering, stated: "All of us are shocked by the poverty of millions and disturbed by the injustices which cause it. Those of us who live in affluent circumstances accept our duty to develop a simple life-style in order to contribute generously to both relief and evangelism."



Uniform Lesson

One In The Spirit

By Larry Kennedy, First, Laurel
1 Cor. 12:12-27

A mother went into her son's room and said, "It's time to get up." He just moaned and turned over in bed. She said, "Come on — it's 9:00 a.m. and time to go to church. Get out of that bed and get out of the door."

He responded, "I don't want to go to church. All the people pick on me." His mother lamented, "Don't be ridiculous. You are forty years old and the pastor of the church. Now get up and get going."

With all the turmoil in the Corinthian church, Paul probably had similar feelings. He had risked his life in order to share Christ with the Corinthians; however, it appears that a majority of the people had turned their backs on Paul. Many of them had questioned his call to preach the gospel. A few had even suggested that he break all ties with the church. In face of the animosity, Paul refused to give up on the Corinthians.

A gracious lady was married to an alcoholic. Repeatedly he shamed and disappointed her before the world. But she never lost hope and prayed that he would change. One night after he had made a fool of himself, the alcoholic husband looked at his wife and asked, "Why don't you leave me?"

She answered, "Because I remember a very beautiful man, and I have hope that he is still in you." Paul had a similar attitude. He believed that the Corinthians could be the beautiful people of God. In 1 Corinthians 12 he reminded them that they were the body of Christ in Corinth. Using the metaphor of the human body, he sought to teach at least three divine truths.

I. A Spirit From God
As the body of Christ, we have a Spirit from God. We have His Holy Spirit living in our lives. Paul wrote, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body . . . and we were all made to drink of one Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:13). At conversion, a believer receives the divine gift of the Holy Spirit. The deposit of the Spirit in our lives is proof that we are God's children, and it is the power that God uses to mold us into His image. The fact that we all possess the Spirit of God should encourage us to be

more sympathetic to each other. It is the indwelling Spirit that creates our common bond.

How tragic it is that too many times the church appears to have a spirit from the devil. T. S. Eliot had one of his novel characters say, "Half of the harm that is done in this world is due to people who want to feel important. They don't mean to do harm — but the harm does not interest them. Or they do not see it, or they justify it because they are absorbed in the endless struggle to think well of themselves."

The Corinthian church was filled with folks who were interested only in themselves. Those who manifested certain spiritual gifts felt that their particular spiritual gifts put them into an elite group. Too many in the church thought "well of themselves" and manifested contempt from others. However, Paul would remind us that there are no super saints in the church. We are sinners saved by grace who are to live as "one in the Spirit."

II. A Standard To Live By
As the body of Christ, we have a standard to live by. Paul wrote, "And the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you' . . ." (1 Cor. 12:21). The human body functions properly as the various organs of the body work together. Each organ of the human body is important and performs a necessary function in human development. In a very similar fashion, every member in the church is important. The church functions according to God's plan when each individual member believes in the worth of all the members.

A swimmer found a beautiful pearl, but it had a small flaw. He assumed that if he could remove the imperfection, the pearl would be priceless. He proceeded to peel off the first layer, but the flaw was still there. He then took off the next layer, but the imperfection remained. He continued the process until he had no pearl. The imperfection was gone but so was the pearl. We need to remember that to God, people are pearls with flaws. We need to forget about the imperfections in others and major on the "pearl" quality of every life. This is the standard we are to live by.

A father had three sons. Two of the

boys were strong and handsome. The other son was twenty years old and retarded. A friend asked if he could take a picture of the father and his two healthy sons. The retarded son was over in the corner playing with his toys. The father went over picked him up and placed him in the center of the group for the picture. The person who took the picture later said, "I learned from that father what it means to belong to a family. No child was missing from the picture — not one." May it be said of our church families that no child of God is missing from the picture — not one.

III. A Service To Render
As the body of Christ, we have a service to render. We are to suffer and to rejoice with each other. Paul said, "And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it" (1 Cor. 12:26). The human body is tied together so perfectly that a disease in one part of the body affects the whole body. If a part of my body is suffering, my whole body is suffering. If the disease is removed from a specific part of my body, the total body is benefited.

Paul contended that a similar spirit is to prevail within the church. We should be so close to each other that when one member is suffering we all suffer with that person. When one member of the church has a cause to rejoice, we all rejoice with him. It is that kind of spirit that demonstrates to the world that we really know God.

Denia, Spain — Several hours before daylight one morning in 1921, the Denia Baptist Church was formed after a clandestine baptismal service held away from civil guards who had forcibly stopped an earlier attempt. The congregation, now numbering 220 members, publicly opened their fourth mission station this month. Located in the city's port area, the new church extension point will provide a place for social work, Bible studies, women's meetings and preaching services. Denia is a fishing port, tourist resort and citrus-growing centre with a resident population of about 18,000. (EBPS)

Life and Work Lesson

A Call To Decision

By Joe N. McKeever
First, Columbus
1 Kings 17:19

What's wrong with junk food? Among other things, it destroys one's appetite for a balanced meal.

In the same way false religions delude people and interfere with their receiving the true Gospel. Therefore, untruth must be challenged by truth. That's the story of Elijah, a true hero of the faith.

At a time when 7,000 believers huddled miserably in remote caves, Elijah stood alone and challenged those who had made themselves God's enemies.

Clarence McCartney called Elijah "the loneliest and grandest man in the Old Testament." Loneliest because he appeared alone from out of nowhere, stood alone and fought alone. Grandest because of his heroic stand against the wicked king and queen, against the organized religion of his day, against practically the entire population.

Elijah bears a strong resemblance to John the Baptist. This is no coincidence since John fulfilled the prophecy that Elijah would return as the Messiah's forerunner. Their clothes were identical, they were educated in the same school — the desert — they preached the same message, judgment and righteousness, and became immortal in their influence. Each was pursued by a wicked woman, Jezebel and Herodias, and both suffered temporary eclipses of their faith, Elijah under the juniper tree and John in prison.

Elijah comes onto the scene in 1 Kings 17 like a crash of thunder, and departs later in a whirlwind. No ordinary man, this Elijah.

I. Call To A Decision
The question Elijah posed must be put to every new generation: What will it take to make you decide? Fence-straddling wins the prize as the most popular religious activity of the ages. But not to decide means deciding against the true God.

Who is the real God? Elijah's audience would have settled that one by a shallow answer that both Jehovah and Baal are real. There's no decision to be made.

But God won't allow that. He claims

the right to be the only God in the universe. And to reveal the inadequacies of other pretenders to His throne.

The people were not ready to decide. They needed evidence. The amazing thing about that is the shortness of their memory. The Lord God had brought them out of Egypt and handed over Canaan to them. But again, every generation must see fresh evidence of the hand of God among them.

II. Challenge To A Duel
Every Christian would do well to study this man Elijah. He could not content himself with possessing the truth; he had to fight untruth. He waded into a battle for the express purpose of revealing the foolishness of Baal-worship and the reality of Jehovah.

"Will the real God please . . . answer by fire!" The God of the flaming sword outside Eden, of the fire of judgment on Sodom and Gomorrah; of the fiery vision to Abraham, of the fire on the altar of Solomon's temple, and of the cloven tongues as of fire at Pentecost — this God could indeed respond with fire from heaven!

Elijah flunked the Dale Carnegie course. He wasn't there to win friends for himself, but to turn a nation to righteousness. Observe him as he taunts the pagan prophets who are praying all day to their deaf god. He's merciless in his mockery!

Yet Elijah's own test was yet to come. You and I would have advised him to be kind to the enemy — after all, he might need some sympathy if things did not go as he planned. But Elijah's manner reveals him to be dead sure, absolutely convinced. The possibility of failing never occurred to him.

Dr. Howard Hendricks says the secret of Elijah's power was three-fold: (1) he was convinced of the reality of Jehovah, (2) he was convinced that he was a representative of the living God, and (3) he was convinced of the resources available to him.

III. Calls To A Duty
Look at the prayers offered that day on Carmel. The contrast speaks eloquently to modern Christians.

Notice how the pagans prayed: (1) they prayed all day; (2) they used

much repetition; (3) they prayed with much noise; and (4) they took great steps to convince their god of their sincerity.

On the other hand, Elijah prayed (1) only two sentences, (2) for God to confirm His word, (3) for everyone to know Jehovah is God in Israel, and (4) for people to be turned to God as a result.

From this prayer we learn that Elijah and God were already on good speaking terms, that their purposes were the same, that Elijah's confidence in God's Word was absolute, and that he had no doubt as to the outcome.

It reminds us of the two sentence prayer offered by Jesus as He came to Lazarus' grave. "Father," he prayed, "I thank Thee that you heard me when I prayed. I know that you always hear me." Obviously, His heavy praying had been done earlier in seclusion.

Question: are your prayers pagan or Christian? noisy or to the point? repetitious or believing? assaulting heaven or expecting from heaven?

IV. Consequent To

The Demonstration
Several results flowed from the victory that day. First, the people turned to God. You wonder how valuable was such a commitment that required a miracle to produce it. Jesus said those who need signs before believing are "wicked and adulterous." Wicked because they are without faith and adulterous because they will not be faithful.

Second, the false prophets were slain. The goal was to prevent a future recurrence.

Third, God began again to bless the nation. The three year drought ended. And, fourth, Elijah headed Jezebel's most wanted list. A spiritual victory in one area brought him a new enemy. Sometimes the price of victory must be paid after the triumph, as well as in the preparation which went before.

Don't volunteer to be an Elijah. But respond as God calls you to confront evil and to demonstrate His reality. Your faithful work may turn many to faith.

No man ever yet became great by imitation. — Samuel Johnson



By William B. Webb, Pastor, Midway, Meridian
Mark 15:6-15

Before the days of the two platoon system and free substitution, a familiar scene on Friday night was the football player who jumped up from the bench, ran onto the playing field with hand in the air and reported to the official that he was substituting for another player.

Jesus is our substitute. All that happened to him at Calvary was for us as he took our place. As we consider his substitution on that day we note:

I. The Sinner, Barabbas. He was a revolutionary against Rome. He may have been a part of that cloak and dagger operation called the Sicarii who, because of their hatred for the Romans, used their daggers in the crowd. He was on death row.

II. The Sinless Substitute, Jesus. Neither Pilate nor Herod Antipas found him guilty. Pilate's, "What shall I do with Jesus?", may have been asked in hope that they would release Jesus because of his popularity with the crowds. This is the "inescapable question about the unavoidable Christ." Their response was "Crucify Him." What is your response?

III. A Suggested Comparison. Origen tells of a manuscript of Matthew in which Barabbas is called Jesus Barabbas. Barabbas means son of his father. Jesus was Son of his Father.

One was a spiritual Messiah — one was a political messiah. One offered salvation from sin — one offered salvation from Roman bondage. One offered to save by shedding his blood — one offered to save by shedding their blood.

Jesus refused to be the kind of Messiah the other proposed to be.

IV. A Conscious Choice. The people chose Barabbas on the advice of the priests who were successful rabble rousers. They condemned Jesus for political ambition and recommended Barabbas to the crowd for the same reason. He looked like a better hope than Jesus. So the crowd cried, "Crucify Him!" Beware when the voice box becomes a substitute for the brain.

Conclusion: They scourged him and led him out to crucify Him. And it was all done because he was a willing substitute — not only for Barabbas but for you.

Christian Literature Interest Up After Turmoil

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — The results of turmoil in a country are not always negative. The Baptist Book Store ministry in Nicaragua has experienced heightened interest in Christian literature since recent unrest in that Middle American country.

Much of the Nicaraguan economy encountered a drastic setback due to a general strike and prolonged political crisis following an armed insurrection, but the Baptist Culture Center, Managua, saw an increased demand for Bibles, hymnals, Christian books, evangelistic literature and Bible study materials.

Southern Baptist missionaries involved in literature ministries feel the heightened interest in Christian literature "is due to, rather than in spite of," the recent political upheaval, according to Stanley D. Stamps, Mississippian, and Southern Baptist missionary director of literature ministries in Nicaragua.

However, Stamps is quick to add that other factors contributed to the increased interest in Christian literature, including a growing number of decisions for Christ in evangelical churches. These new decisions "create a demand for more doctrinal materials for instructing candidates for baptism."

These new Christians and others are also coming to the bookstore for evangelism manuals and other literature to help them with their own witnessing.

As Stamps looked at sales volumes for months during and following the unrest, he remembered when he transferred to Nicaragua more than two years ago he was told he wouldn't sell many books. Now he says he feels like the lad with a few fish and a couple of loaves of bread, "at the right place at the right time with the right substance, and with Jesus to bless it all."

